

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2632
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, OREP
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL CSCE COMMISSION TRIP TO EUROPE AND ISRAEL --
STAFFDEL OLIVER

REF: A) STATE 25458; B) ROME 1927

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL EMBASSY WELCOMES STAFFDEL OLIVER AND WILL ENDEAVOR TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF ROME PORTION OF ITS TRIP. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH COME TO MIND IN PREPARING FOR A VISIT OF THIS SPECIFIC NATURE WHICH WE WISH TO SHARE BOTH WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CSCE COMMISSION STAFF.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO US ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THEIR UNEASE AT RECEIVING CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS GARDINI, IN DISCUSSING RECENT VISIT OF CSCE COMMISSIONER PELL SAID, "THAT GOVERNMENTS TALK TO GOVERNMENTS AND LEGISLATORS TALK TO LEGISLATORS." WE SHALL RAISE STAFFDEL OLIVER VISIT WITH MFA WITH THE HOPE THAT AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR A
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CALL ON THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE DIRECTOR (ROBERTO FRANCESCHI), AND WE SHALL REPORT THE MFA'S REACTION AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT OUR REQUEST COULD ELICIT A NEGATIVE REPLY.

3. APPOINTMENTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF REFUGEE

ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM. ASIDE FROM HIAS, WHICH HANDLES A LARGE MAJORITY OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN REFUGEES, THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, THE TOLSTOY FOUNDATION, UCEI (CATHOLIC RELIEF AGENCY), AND INTEC-NATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE IN ROME.

4. FOR LOGISTICAL AND EVEN POLITICAL REASONS WE SEE PROBLEMS WITH IDEA OF ADMINISTERING A QUESTIONNAIRE TO EAST EUROPEAN REFUGEES AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL A. SINCE REFUGEES ARE NOT HOUSED IN CAMPS HERE AND LIVE OUT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY, IT WILL REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT ON THE PART OF SOMEONE TO ROUND THEM UP AND ORGANIZE THEM INTO GROUPS OF 20 TO 25 TO MEET AT SOME PLACE TO FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE. (REFTEL DOES NOT INDICATE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES STAFFDEL OLIVER WISHES TO DISTRIBUTE HERE.) GIVEN WORKLOAD OF VOLUNTEER AGENCIES (HIAS ALONE IS CURRENTLY ASSISTING AT LEAST 2,000 EX-SOVIET JEWS), THIS MIGHT BE A BURDEN WHICH IS INCONVENIENT FOR THE AGENCY AND WHICH WILL DIVERT RESOURCES FROM ALREADY BUSY AND HARRASSED PROCESSING OPERATION. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, WE ALSO FACE A SECURITY PROBLEM SINCE TWO OF THE THREE DAYS WHEN THE STAFFDEL PLANS TO BE IN ROME WILL BE OVER A LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND. GIVEN SECURITY PROCEDURES AT THE EMBASSY, WE WOULD HAVE TO BRING IN EXTRA STAFF TO ENSURE OPERATION COULD BE CONDUCTED IN AN ORDERLY AND SECURE MANNER ON THOSE DAYS. FINALLY
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CIRCULATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE
BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON CONDITIONS IN A THIRD COUNTRY COULD POTENTIALLY PROVOKE REPERCUSSIONS HERE AS WELL AS PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES THROUGH ITALY, A MATTER THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS SHOULD BE PLAYED AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE.

5. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR STAFFDEL, DURING ROME STAY, TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF HIAS IN DISTRIBUTING A REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES. OTHER POSSIBILITY, WOULD BE FOR STAFFDEL TO ARRANGE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES IN THE STATES AT PORT OF ENTRY USED BY SOVIET JEWS OR THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THERE ASSISTING THEM IN RESETTLEMENT PROCESS.

6. SUGGEST SPENCER OLIVER CALL CONTROL OFFICER WENICK IN ROME SOONEST TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING QUESTIONNAIRES. BEAUDRY

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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